



Supports Intensity Scale-Adult®

What to Expect
from your SIS
Interview

Topics covered in this presentation

Why Medicaid is using the SIS

What a SIS-A assessment is

Who participates in the interview

What the interview looks like

How the information is used

Why is Idaho Using the SIS?

The **My Choice Matters** Promise

Idaho Medicaid is making exciting changes to the Adult Developmental Disabilities Program. These changes are trying to **improve** the program so people are better able to live the life they want in the community.

My Choice Matters is Medicaid's promise to listen to what you have to say about the changes in the program and what is and is not working for you in the system. Medicaid is working to improve the system so you can be the boss of your own life.

Moving from the SIB-R to the SIS-A

One of the big changes Idaho is making is changing the tool they use to learn what supports you need.

Right now, Medicaid uses the Scales of Independent Behavior-Revised (**SIB-R**) to learn about your needs and find out if you qualify for supports.

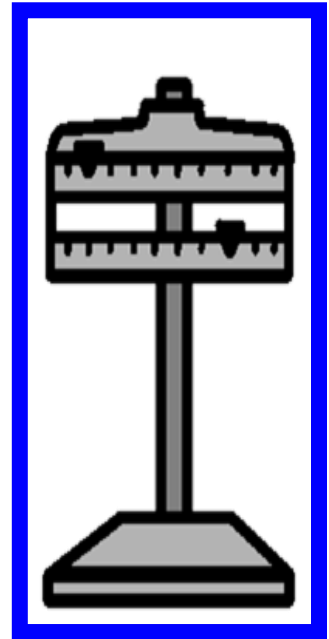
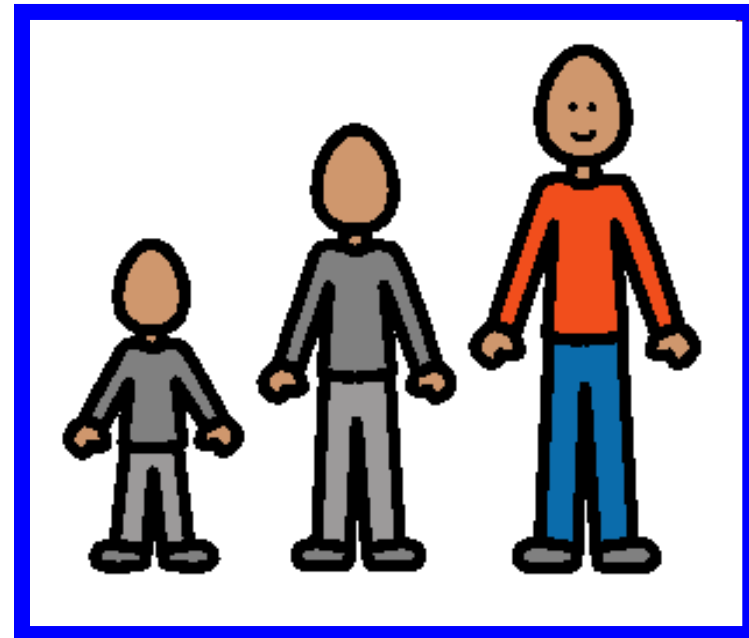
Soon, Medicaid will begin using the **SIS-A** instead of the SIB-R to get this information.

Why does Idaho need an assessment tool?

Idaho needs a fair way to measure everyone's support needs.

Different people get different support budgets based on how much support they need.

Using a tested and reliable assessment tool is the best way to make sure what people get is fair.



Idaho wants to make sure the amount of support and funding people receive is:

- ✓ **Fair**
- ✓ **Person-Centered**
- ✓ **Based on the person's needs & choices**



What is a SIS-A assessment?

What is the Supports Intensity Scale-Adult (SIS-A)?

The SIS-A is an assessment tool developed by the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD).

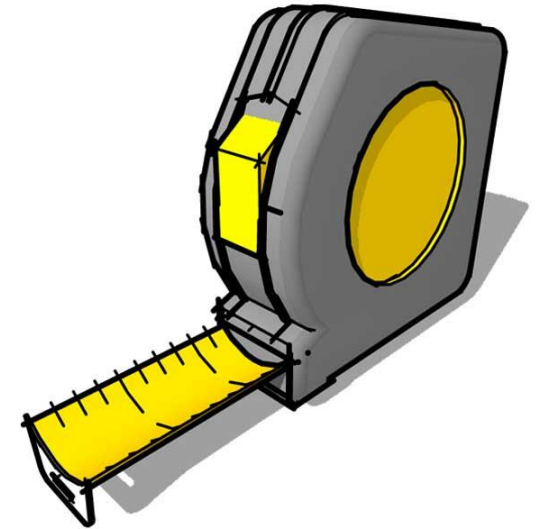


It measures the support that a person with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD) needs with activities of daily life.

What is an “assessment”?

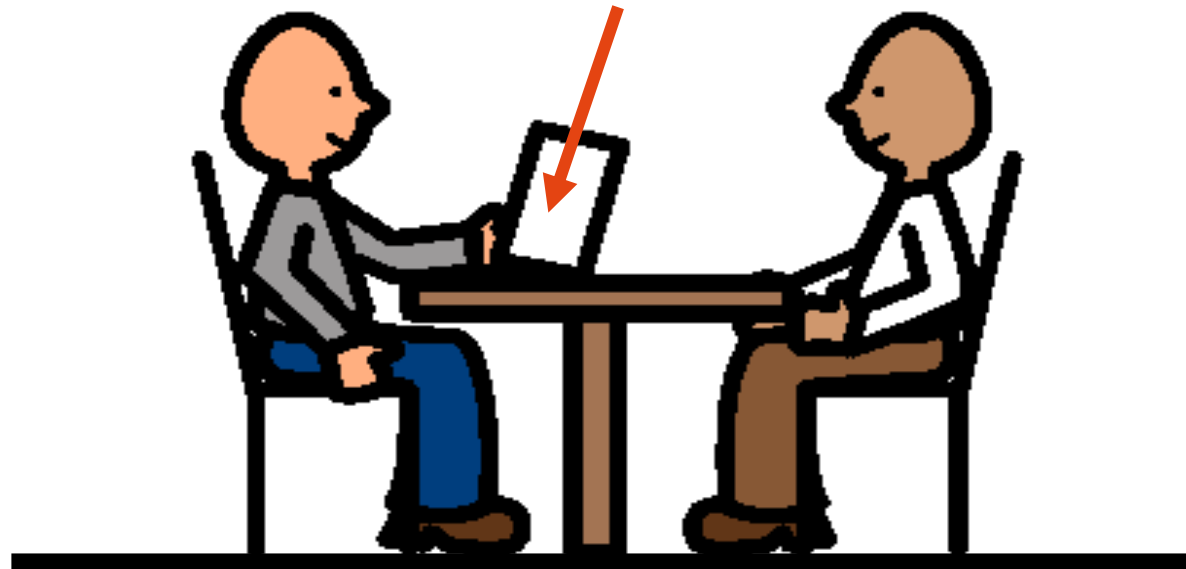
An assessment
measures a person’s
support needs.

This is done during an interview.



The assessment interview measures your support needs by asking you and other people who know you well a set of questions.

What support do you need?



What does “support” mean?

“Support” means the help you need to do something successfully.



What supports might Jim need?



Can you think of some examples?

Here are some examples:

Jim may need supports getting in and out of his chair when at work.

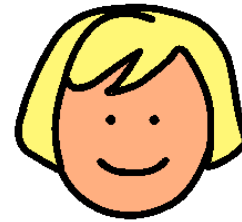


Jim may need support with personal care like dressing and bathing.



Who gets a SIS-A assessment?

All adults who currently get or apply for I/DD Medicaid services in Idaho will get a SIS-A assessment.



Who will be at my SIS-A interview?



You get to decide! At least 2 people who know you well must be at the SIS-A interview the entire time. These are some of the people who can be at the interview:

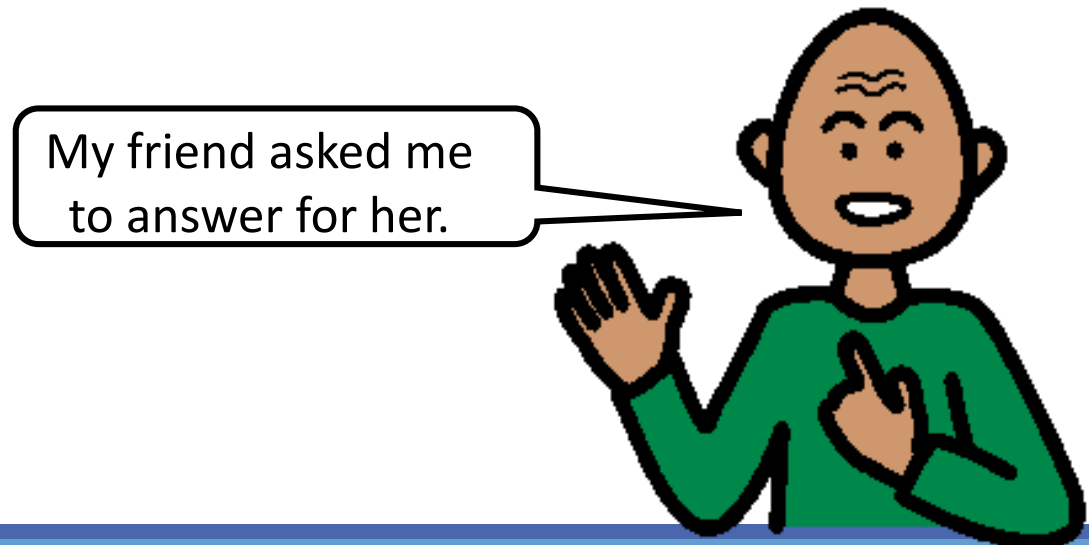
- **You** or someone you choose to represent you
- A **family member** (spouse, parent, sibling) or your **guardian**
- **Friends** or other **advocates**
- A **direct support person** who knows you well
- Your **service coordinator** or **support broker**

What if I don't want to be interviewed?

It is always **YOUR CHOICE** whether or not to be part of the interview.

Who knows you well and can answer questions for you?

Invite that person (or people) to take part in the SIS-A interview for you.



Remember...

People who participate must have known you for at least **3 months**.

They must also **know you well** and **know what you need and want!**



What will the SIS-A interview
look like?

How long will my interview be?

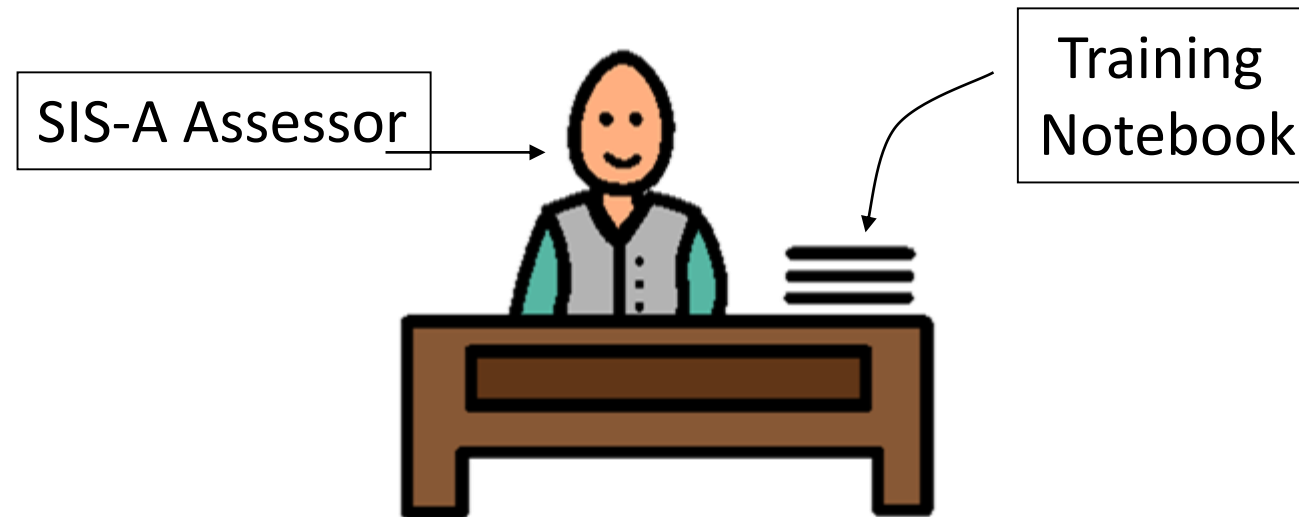


Most interviews take between 2 and 3 hours to complete.

At the interview...

You will meet with a SIS-A assessor.

The SIS-A assessor has been specially trained to complete all kinds of assessments, including the SIS interview.

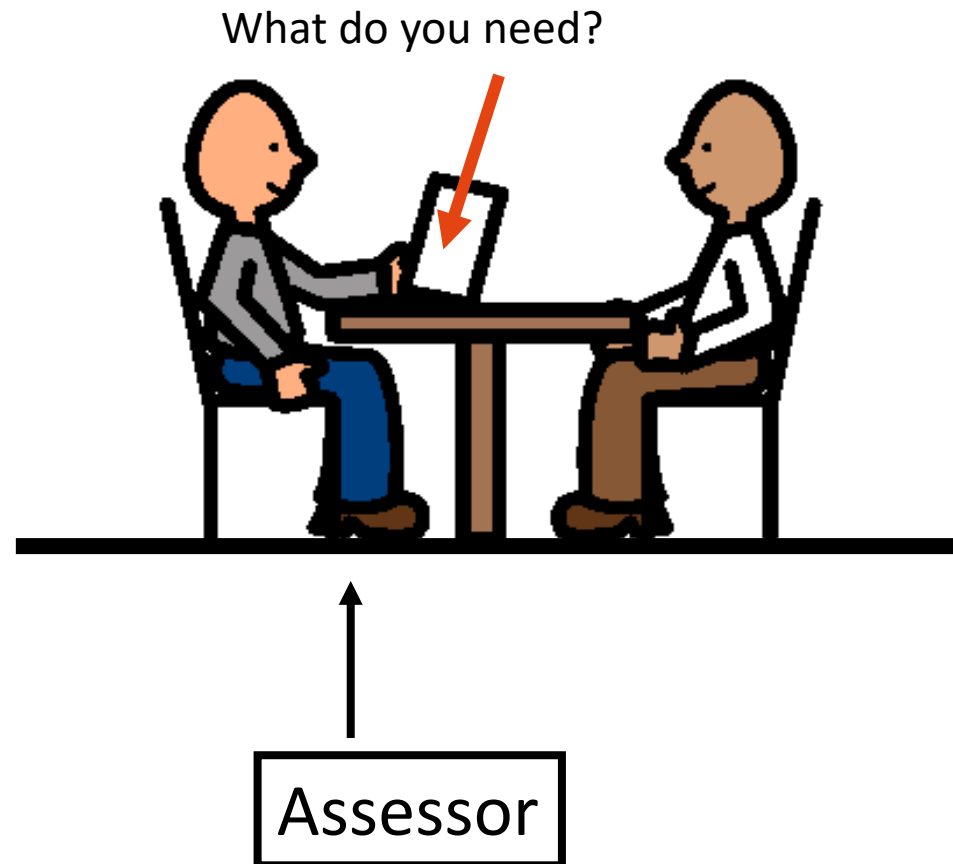


Also at the interview ...

The SIS-A assessor will meet with you and the other people you've chosen.



What will the SIS-A Assessor do?



Explain how the SIS-A interview will go.

Ask the interview questions.

Write down the answers on a computer.

What else does the SIS-A Assessor do?



The SIS-A Assessor **helps the group reach agreement** about the supports the adult with I/DD needs.

What kinds of questions are asked?

You will be asked about your support needs in areas such as:



Home Living



Community Living



Lifelong Learning



Employment



Health & Safety



Social



Protection & Self Advocacy



Medical & Behavioral

For each area, you will be asked:



How often you need support.

How much support you need.

What type of support you need.

For example



Things you do at home:

How often do you eat?

Do you need support to eat?

If so, what type of support do you need?

For example



Doing things in the community

What type of support do you need to visit your friends and family?

How often do you (or would you like to) visit friends or family?

How much support time would be needed for each visit?

For example



Staying healthy & safe

What type of support do you need to stay physically fit?

How often do you need support to stay physically fit?

How much support would you need each day?

For example...



Taking care of medical needs

Do you use medical support to breathe?

Do you use medical support to eat (via a tube)?

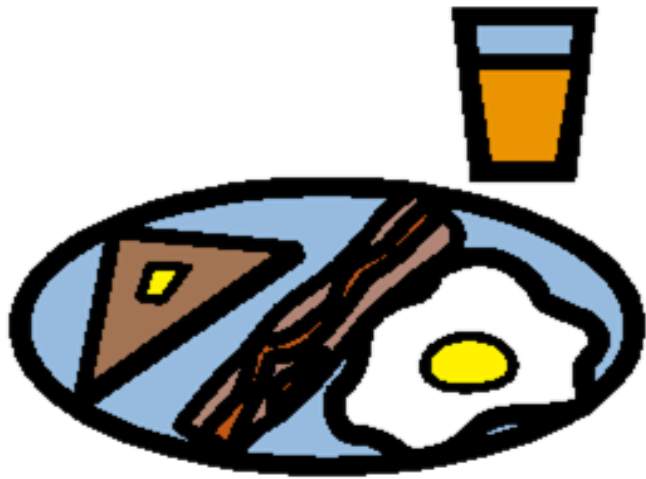
How much support do you need?
Occasional or regular assistance?

During the interview...

- ✓ All people at the interview should get a chance to give information
- ✓ All questions must be answered...even if they don't seem to apply to you



For example...



If you don't cook, you might be asked:

“What support would you need if you did cook?”

How often are interviews done?

When BIG changes
happen in a person's life
that change the type and amount of
supports they need

- OR -

Every 3 years



How is the information used?

What is a “supports budget”?

Medicaid pays for different supports you need.

The amount of money Medicaid pays for your support is called a “**supports budget**.”

Information from the SIS-A interview will be used to help figure out your **supports budget** each year.



The Supports Budget Model

Medicaid is changing the way supports budgets are set.

The new way of figuring out how much your supports budget will be each year is called the **Supports Budget Model**.



The Supports Budget Model

Information gathered during the SIS-A interview will be used to find out what supports you need to help you live in your community.

Using this information you will be assigned a **Support Level** in the new model.

Support Levels are simply a way to group people together who have similar amounts and types of support need.

This presentation was:

Originally designed by self advocates at the Pennsylvania Training Partnership for People with Disabilities and their Families at Temple University.

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Thank You!

